

City of Visalia

Mapping Workshop #2 Notes

City Council Redistricting

Wednesday, October 23, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Location: Anthony Community Center

345 N. Jacob St., Visalia, CA 93291

- I. Welcome from Allison Mackey, Communications Manager
- II. Introduction of Ken Chawkins, National Demographic Corporation
 - Mr. Chawkins explained that previously scheduled presenter Jeff Tilton was unavailable due to multiple family emergencies.
- III. Introduction of Maria Mejia-Ng, Radiant Valley Interpreting
 - Ms. Mejia-Ng shared a brief introduction in both English and Spanish and provided information on the workshop's Spanish interpretation available.
- IV. Presentation from Ken Chawkins, National Demographic Corporation
 - Mr. Chawkins began his PowerPoint presentation, included on page three of these notes
 - Mr. Chawkins explained the process the City had undertaken so far, included explanation of the California Census process and how the data has to be adjusted for prisoner population. Noted that NDC found a "great number of errors".

Discussed redistricting rules and goals, Mr. Chawkins made it through approximately four slides before stopping the PowerPoint presentation and facilitating the meetings move to a group discussion and began taking questions from the public in attendance

- V. Questions and Group Discussion

Feedback on Communities of Interest and Districts

- St. John's should be one district
- North of Santa Fe should be one district
- The housing development The Lakes should be a community of interest

- The “north side” should be recognized and “bunched with more like communities”
- There should be a community of interest in the City’s “north area”
- State Route 198 should be a divider, communities above and below should be split into different districts
- State Route 198 should not be a divider, “we pride ourselves on not having the City divided by the 198”
- Youth and diversity should be guides for the redistricting process
- Socioeconomic status should not be a significant indicator of community of interest
- Each district should have effective representation with diversity of age, affluence, and ethnicity
- Consider “high propensity voting” areas when drawing districts
- Visalia has a “history of redlining and still, to some extent, potholes don’t get fixed but new schools or houses are going up”
- Look at areas that have been redlined in the past and work to ensure new district lines can assist these areas in “catching up”
- Candidate incumbency should not be considered when drawing districts
- “No one runs” was stated, as was, “The Council is one political party and we need to create competition”
- Would like a map where “there are districts where basic needs are met in each district”
- There “should be focus on community building, where there are centers of influence in each district, where each district has their basic needs met”

Specific Requests

- NDC upload the necessary Census data as soon as possible
- It was noted by an attendee that NDC had the data for 30 days by the second mapping workshop
- NDC should not use Google Translate on paper map materials
- Mapping tools be accessible and include City of Visalia data as soon as possible
- A map overlay of the City’s General Plan
- A map overlay of City Zoning
- A map overlay of the Tulare County Board of Supervisor Districts
- A map overlay that shows “where the Hispanic population lives”
- Two maps that are “influenced by the community” voted on by the community as official community recommendations to be considered by the City Council

- “Two of the three maps presented to the City Council should be community approved”
- Specific training for the public on each mapping tool
- This training should include computers for each attendee to try out the tool and draw maps in real time
- Public Hearings and City Council meetings should have Public Comment on Redistricting extended beyond the three-minute period
- This extension should occur for all citizens wishing to speak, but should be particularly considered for those requiring their comments to be translated into English
- Find a way for the public to review all submitted maps in a public forum

Future Meetings

- Attendees noted that all meetings should have:
 - o Have official transcriber at each meeting
 - o Have virtual options for attending and participating through Zoom
 - o Be recorded and available to citizens after the meeting
 - o Have Spanish language translation recorded
 - o Have PowerPoint presentation available in Spanish
 - o Have all materials presented and available as hand-outs in pre-prepared packets (in both English and Spanish) and those packets should then be posted online
 - o Only be hosted in buildings with accessible WiFi
 - o Been publicly posted at facilities, including City buildings, but also schools, County and State offices
 - o Send specific invitations to the community groups Proteus, Community Water Center and Self-Help

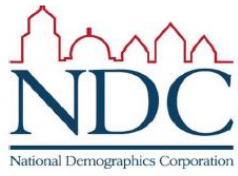
Additional Feedback

- Column three on the PowerPoint presentation slide “makes it look like the City will be provided a faulty map”
- “This space needed something different today than what was scheduled, we need conversations with the City”
- Want emphasis on outreach to the community, more community meetings, more presentations to local groups, especially those that work with minority groups, “would love to see personal invitations for involvement”
- Citizens are “tossed back and forth between representatives”
- “Council and Tulare County Board of Supervisors aren’t coming together and attending, they need to know what the underlying issues are”

Meeting was held on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 10 a.m. to approximately 12:45 p.m. at the Anthony Community Center.

There were 18 members of the public in attendance.

To view the PowerPoint slides presented during the presentation, the presentation begins on page 5 of these notes.



City of Visalia

Redistricting Workshop

October 2021

Dr. Jeff Tilton, Senior Consultant
National Demographics Corporation

Introductions



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Our Goals

You Learn

We Listen to You

Mapping Tools for You

You Leave Empowered to Give Effective Feedback



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Our Schedule

AGENDA

Process, Rules and Goals

Neighborhoods/Communities of Interest

Mapping Tools

Next Steps



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Redistricting Process

Step	Description
Initial Hearing August 23, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/Measure N Oversight Committee • Held prior to release of draft maps • Educate and solicit input on the communities in the Districts
Initial Hearing September 20, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council • Held prior to release of draft maps • Educate and solicit input on the communities in the Districts
Census Data Releases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census Bureau releases official 2020 Census population data – Aug. 12 • California’s official ‘prisoner-adjusted’ 2020 redistricting data – Sept. 20, 27
Public Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss communities of interest, neighborhoods; learn the mapping tools • October 13, 6 p.m. (Whitendale Community Center) • October 23, 10 a.m. (Anthony Community Center)
Draft Map Hearing December 6, 2021 <i>7:30 p.m.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and revise the draft maps • Discuss the election sequence • Deadline to submit draft maps: November 22, 2021, 5 p.m.
Draft Map Hearing January 10, 2022 <i>7:30 p.m.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and select final map; discuss and determine election sequence • Deadline to submit draft maps: December 27, 2021, 5 p.m. • Post draft maps by January 3, 2022, 2022, 5 p.m.




Dates/locations subject to change

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Redistricting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws	2. California Criteria for Cities	3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal Population • Federal Voting Rights Act • No Racial Gerrymandering 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geographically contiguous 2. Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest” (Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together) 3. Easily identifiable boundaries 4. Compact (Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize voters shifted to different election years • Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office • Future population growth • Preserving the core of existing districts

Prohibited: “Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party.”



Defining Neighborhoods

1st Question: What is your neighborhood?

2nd Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- Areas around parks or schools
- Other neighborhood landmarks

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.



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Beyond Neighborhoods: Defining Communities of Interest

1st Question: What defines your community?

- Geographic Area, plus
- Shared issue or characteristic
 - Shared social or economic interest
 - Impacted by city policies
- Tell us “your community’s story”

2nd Question: Would this community benefit from being “included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation”?

- Or would it benefit more from having multiple representatives?

Definitions of Communities of Interest may not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.



Possible Neighborhoods / Communities



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Break



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Public Mapping and Map Review Tools

- **Different tools for different purposes**
- **Different tools for different levels of technical skill and interest**
 - Simple “review draft maps” tool
 - Easy-to-use “Draw your neighborhood” tool
 - Paper- and Excel-based simple “Draw a draft map” tools
 - Powerful, data-rich “Draw a draft map” tool

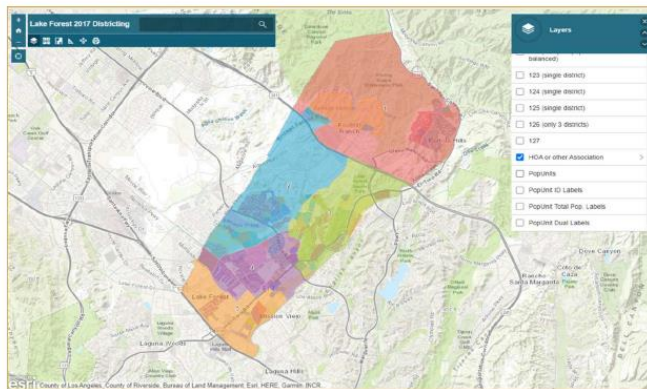
Whether you use the powerful (but complicated) online mapping tool, Excel, the paper kit, or just draw on a napkin, we welcome your maps!



Simple Map Review Tool

Online Interactive Review Map

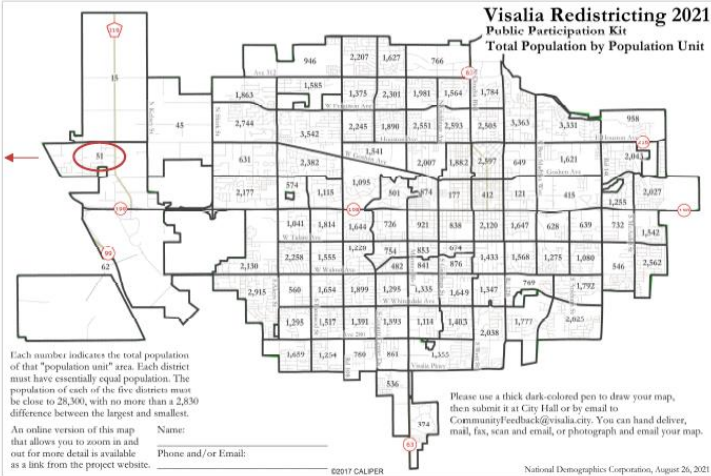
- ESRI's "ArcGIS Online" – similar to Google Maps in ease of use
- Used to review, analyze and compare maps, not to create them
- Includes overlays of "community of interest" and other data



Simple Map Drawing Tool

Paper “Public Participation Kit”

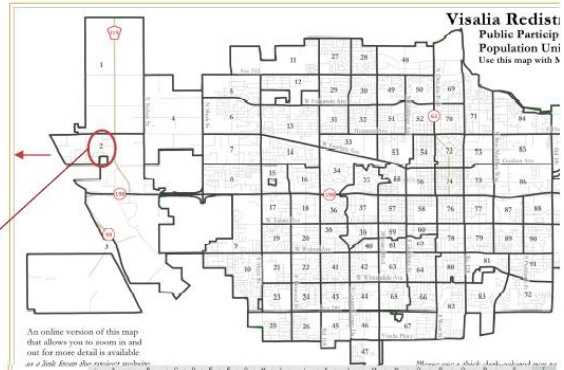
- For those without internet access or who prefer paper
- Total Population Counts only – no demographic numbers



Simple Map Drawing Tool + Excel Supplement

“Public Participation Kit”

- For those who know Excel and do not wish to use online tools
- Adds CVAP data
- Excel does the math



Name: _____
Phone and/or E-mail: _____

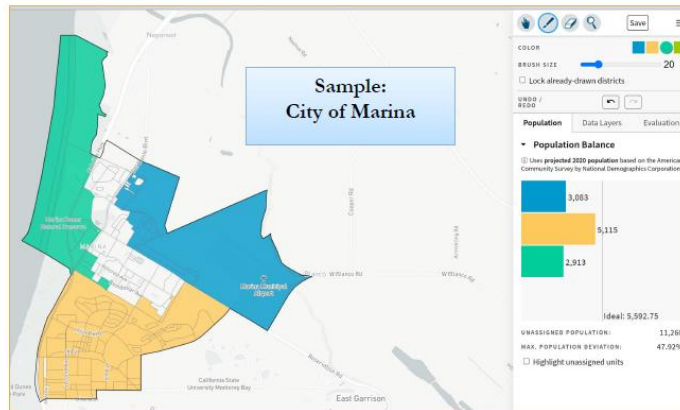
District	Unit	Total Population				Voting Age Population				Green Voting Age Population				Non-2014 Registration							
		Pop	His	Blk	2014 Reg	Pop	His	Blk	2014 Reg	Pop	His	Blk	2014 Reg	Pop	His	Blk	2014 Reg				
1	1	1,218	42	397	18	47	873	297	462	12	831	390	441	0	0	174	193	7	3	243	63
2	2	2,239	73	1,499	63	94	1,744	742	859	4	1,915	730	1,140	0	45	1,299	432	11	7	555	140
3	3	1,643	23	1,409	43	23	1,008	741	236	15	400	233	145	0	20	905	206	3	4	161	72
4	4	1,145	74	883	62	84	1,270	664	685	62	1,231	461	639	19	111	1,022	266	11	11	291	89
5	5	2,001	209	1,855	14	79	1,609	144	1,392	84	1,511	58	1,337	12	38	1,774	146	46	7	1,059	67
6	6	812	16	489	4	39	517	37	440	36	471	22	423	3	11	525	31	11	2	337	16
7	7	1,743	114	1,429	14	18	1,142	547	674	17	749	333	445	1	4	777	176	4	4	411	76

Schools' Comments about the plan:

DistrictR

“Draw Your Community of Interest” focus

- [districtR.org](https://districtr.org)
- Also includes simple district-mapping tool; Only available in English
- Similar external options: [Representable.org](https://representable.org), [DrawMyCACommunity.org](https://drawmycacomunity.org)



Caliper's "Maptitude Online Redistricting"

Full Database, Powerful Online Mapping Tool

- Powerful, common, data-rich online tool
- Six language options: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Mandarin and Korean

